

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the last paragraph on page 18, lines 15-19, to page 19, lines 1-9, with the following amended paragraph:

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In the embodiment illustrated in Figures 20-24, the absorbent article 400 has a backwaist portion 401, a front waist portion 403, a crotch portion 405, a liquid pervious top sheet or layer 407, a liquid impervious backsheet 409, an absorbent pad 411, an acquisition layer 413, the fastening means or tabs 415A, 415B, and the leg openings ~~317, 319~~ 417, 419. The absorbent article in Figure 20 also comprises the a concave elasticized barrier layer segments segment 421A and an opposed concave elasticized barrier layer segment 421B, both having opposed, spaced-apart inner (relative to the lateral side edges of the absorbent article) arch-shaped elasticized edges 423A and 423B which partly overlap and define a generally oval region 410 of the absorbent panel 411. The barrier layer segments 421A, 421B with their respective elasticized edges 423A, 423B define the retaining enclosures A³, B³ which serve to retain the body exudates. The arch-shaped elasticized inner edges 423A and 423B cross one another near the leg openings 417, 419 thus forming the double protection barriers 425, 427 for added structural integrity and improved protection against leakage of the body exudate.